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PAGE 001  
TOR: 201113Z NOV 79

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TO RUFHOM/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 1980  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9148  
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UNCLAS ANKARA 08403

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IR, VT  
SUBJECT: KHOMEINI REPLY TO MESSAGE FROM POPE

REF: A) ROME 32006, B) ANKARA 8357

1. THIS IS AN INFORMATION MESSAGE RESPONDING TO REF A.

2. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF KHOMEINI'S REPLY TO  
MESSAGE FROM POPE JOHN PAUL:

- MAIN POINTS OF THE REPLY OF EMAM KHOMAINI,
- LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION OF IRAN, TO THE
- POPE'S MESSAGE DELIVERED BY HIS SPECIAL EMISSARY.

TEXT: "IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSION-  
ATE."

- AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT, I WOULD HAVE REFUSED TO ACCEPT  
ANY PERSON WHO JUST WANTED TO SEE ME FOR THIS PURPOSE,  
BUT I AGREED TO THIS MEETING OUT OF OUR RESPECT FOR THE  
CHRISTIAN CLERGY AND THE POPE. I FEEL ESPECIALLY PLEASED

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

79 3416484

PAGE 002  
TOR: 201113Z NOV 79

NC 3416484

TO HAVE RECEIVED HIS MESSAGE BECAUSE THIS PROVIDES ME WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS WHICH HAVE OCCUPIED THE MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE AND THE IMPOVERISHED MASSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

- THE THIRTY-FIVE MILLION PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE UNDER THE PRESSURE OF U.S. IMPERIALISM, AND MILLIONS OF IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE LONG SINCE EXPECTED SOME EXPRESSION OF COMFORT AND SYMPATHY FROM THE POPE. THESE PEOPLE HAVE LONG EXPECTED THE POPE TO WARN THE OPPRESSORS AGAINST ALL ACTS OF INJUSTICE AND COUNTED ON HIM AS SOMEONE WHO WOULD MEDIATE BETWEEN THE IMPOVERISHED NATIONS AND THE SUPER-POWERS WHO CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS; BUT ALAS THESE EXPECTATIONS ALWAYS FELL ON DEAF EARS. AT A TIME WHEN OUR PEOPLE WERE BEING MASSACRED IN MASSES AND BEING IMPRISONED AND TORTURED, NEVER DID IT OCCUR TO THE GREAT POPE TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS AND MEDIATE ON THEIR BEHALF.

- OUR PEOPLE AND OUR YOUTH SEIZED THAT PLACE OF ESPIONAGE (IE THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN) BECAUSE, AS THE DECISION BY THE EMBASSY EMPLOYEES TO DESTROY THE EMBASSY DOCUMENTS SHOWED AND, MOREOVER AS THE DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE NOT DESTROYED REVEALED, THE EMBASSY WAS NOT CARRYING OUR NORMAL EMBASSY ACTIVITIES, BUT WAS RATHER A CENTRE FOR CONSPIRACY AND ESPIONAGE AGAINST OUR NATION. THUS THIS ACT OF OCCUPATION HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY OUR ENTIRE NATION AND BY PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

- REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF OUR PEOPLE WITH THE HOSTAGES, OUR YOUTH ARE MOSLEMS AND THEIR CONDUCT HAS BEEN BASED ON HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES. THUS THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. AS FOR RELEASING THE HOSTAGES, WE SHOULD FIRST ASK WHETHER OR NOT THE DEMANDS OF OUR PEOPLE ARE LEGAL.

- OUR PEOPLE HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO MUCH TORMENT AND SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF THAT VERY PERSON WHO IS NOW IN THE UNITED STATES AND WHO COMMITTEE EVERY KIND OF TREASON AGAINST THIS COUNTRY FOR 37 YEARS. HE MASSACRED INNUMERABLE PEOPLE AND INJURED THOUSANDS THROUGH HIS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

79 3416484

PAGE 003  
TOR: 201113Z NOV 79

NC 3416484

BRUTALITY. THUS OUR NATION NOW DEMANDS HIS EXTRADITION TO IRAN TO BE TRIED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE. IF HE IS CONVICTED, HE SHOULD RETURN THE PROPERTY THAT HE HAS TAKEN FROM US. RIGHT NOW, THE WEALTH THAT HE AND HIS RELATIVES HAVE TAKEN FROM THIS COUNTRY HAS FILLED UP FOREIGN BANKS IN THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN COUNTRIES.

- EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HIS FATHER WAS A MERE SOLDIER WHEN HE LAUNCHED A COUP D'ETAT. AFTER SEIZING POWER, HE BEGAN TO CONFISCATE PEOPLE'S PROPERTY AND KILLED OR IMPRISONED MANY OF THE OWNERS OR RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO DARED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION AGAINST HIM. THEN AFTER HE WAS THROWN OUT OF IRAN, THE BRITISH IMPOSED HIS SON ON THIS NATION AND HIS SON COMMITTED SO MANY ACTS OF TREACHERY DURING HIS REIGN AGAINST OUR PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO BE COUNTED.

- DURING THIS PERIOD WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HEAR A WORD FROM OTHER SPIRITUAL LEADERS IN SYMPATHY WITH THIS OPPRESSED NATION. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE VATICAN WAS UNAWARE OF THESE EVENTS AND I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO TELL MY PEOPLE WHO WONDER WHETHER THE CHRISTIAN CLERGY AGREED TO THESE CRIMES WHICH WERE COMMITTED AGAINST THEM.

- THE CHRISTIAN CLERGY KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE KORAN HAS DEFENDED CHRISTIANITY, ITS RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND SAINTS.

WE ARE NOT SURPRISED AT CARTER'S EFFORTS BECAUSE HE COMMITS ANY TREACHERY TO FULFIL HIS PERSONAL INTERESTS OR HE IS UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT HE IS SERVING HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS, BUT WE WOULD HAVE LIKED PERSONALITIES LIKE THE POPE TO INQUIRE FOR ONCE WHY OUR NATION WAS UNDERGOING SUCH SUFFERINGS AND ASK CARTER WHY HE IS HOSTING A MAN WHOSE CRIMES AND ACTS OF TREACHERY OVER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS ARE SO EVIDENT.

- WE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IF WE COULD TRY THIS MAN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE CRIMES HE HAS COMMITTED, THE DOCUMENTS WE HAVE ON HIM AND THE MILLIONS OF WITNESSES WHICH ARE PREPARED TO ATTEST TO HIS CRIMES, MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL TO HOLD SUCH A TRIAL ABROAD. NEVER-

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

79 3416484

PAGE 004  
TOR: 201113Z NOV 79

NC 3416484

THELESS, AS A SIGN OF RESPECT WE HAVE FOR THE POPE, WE WOULD WELCOME HIS REPRESENTATIVE AND EVEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR WORST ENEMY, CARTER, TO ATTEND TO THIS MAN'S TRIAL IN THIS COUNTRY. WE AND OUR PEOPLE WOULD ACCEPT WHATEVER VERDICT THE COURT MIGHT ISSUE.

- I WOULD LIKE THE POPE TO KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO SOLVE PERSONALLY. WE DO NOT WANT TO IMPOSE ANYTHING ON THE NATION. ISLAM HAS NOT PERMITTED US TO BE A DICTATOR. WE WOULD SUBMIT TO THE PEOPLE'S WILL. EVERYTHING IS IN THE HANDS OF THE NATION WHICH HAS EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTION.

- IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, I REQUEST THE POPE TO CONTACT CARTER WHO HAS APPEALED TO HIM AND SEEK THE EX-SHAH'S RETURN TO IRAN FOR TRIAL. SINCE THE POPE NO LESS THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING IS CERTAINLY AWARE OF HIS CRIME, I DO NOT THINK THE POPE WILL SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD SET FREE THESE PEOPLE WITHOUT HAVING THAT PERSON (THE EX-SHAH) AT OUR DISPOSAL TO ANSWER FOR HIS CRIMES.

- THUS WE ARE MAKING A LEGITIMATE DEMAND IN SAYING THAT HE SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO US. HE IS THE SAME CHARRED THEM ON FIRE AND CUT THEIR LIMBS. SHOULD IT BE PROVEN THAT OUR CLAIMS ARE UNFOUNDED, THEN HE WILL BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE PEACOCK THRONE IN WHICH CASE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WILL OBEY HIM. BUT IF YOU ADMIT THAT HE IS AT FAULT AND THAT MR. CARTER IS IGNORING THE PEOPLE'S LEGITIMATE DEMANDS, THEN IT WILL BE YOUR DUTY TO AIR OUR GRIEVANCES AND USE YOUR SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE. NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE POPE TO SHOW SOME GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN WORLD AND EQUALLY ABOUT ALL IMPOVERISHED NATIONS. IT REMAINS HIS DUTY TO REVEAL THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE PEOPLE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL BUT WHO ACT AGAINST IT.

- WE ARE BRINGING OUR PLEA TO YOU BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO INJUSTICE. WE CALL ON THE CHRISTIAN WORLD TO RESCUE ITSELF FROM THE CRIMES COMMITTED IN THE POWERFUL COUNTRIES IN THE NAME OF CHRISTIANITY BUT WHICH IN ACTUAL FACT CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST'S MESSAGE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE

79 3416484

PAGE 005  
TOR: 201113Z NOV 79

NC 3416484

- AS FOR MR. CARTER, HE HAS DONE EVERYTHING TO RESCUE HIMSELF FROM THE ENTANGLEMENT, LIKE A DROWNING MAN WHO WOULD CLING TO ANYTHING COMING HIS WAY. AT ONE MOMENT, HE ENDEAVOURS TO SAVE US FROM AN IMPENDING MILITARY ACTION. AT ANOTHER, THEY SAY THEY WILL IMPOSE AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO ON US. HOWEVER, IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT, IN THE MIDST OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, A PERSON WHO CLAIMS TO BE IRANIAN FIRST AND A MOSLEM SECOND (BAKHTIAR, THE SHAH'S LAST PRIME MINISTER) SHOULD ASK CARTER TO IMPOSE AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO ON US. NOW YOU SEE HOW TRUE WAS MY PAST PREDICTION. I RECALL I SAID THAT THE SUPERPOWERS MIGHT KEEP A PERSON FOR TWENTY OR THIRTY YEARS IN ORDER TO USE HIM ON A RAINY DAY AS THEIR OWN SERVANT WHILE PRESENTING HIM IN DISGUISE AS A NATIONAL PERSONALITY, AS IN THE CASE OF BAKHTIAR.

- IN ANY CASE, LET ME ANNOUNCE HERE THAT WE ARE NEITHER AFRAID OF MILITARY INTERFERENCE NOR AN ECONOMIC SIEGE SINCE WE, BEING SHI'ITES, WELCOME ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR SACRIFICING OUR BOLLO. IN THE EVENT OF MILITARY INTERFERENCE, THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THIRTY FIVE MILLION PEOPLE WILL GO INTO ACTION. THEN ONCE WE HAVE ALL BEEN MARTYRED, OUR ENEMIES WILL BE ABLE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO DO WITH THIS COUNTRY. WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF WAR. OUR YOUTH FOUGHT AGAINST ARMY TANKS AND MACHINE GUNS WITH BARE HANDS.

- AS FOR AN ECONOMIC SIEGE, LET ME REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE A NATION WHO HAVE FOR LONG BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO STARVING AND, IN THE EVENT OF AN EMBARGO WE WILL ALL FAST. IF WE SHOULD BE FORCED EITHER TO SAVE OUR FACES OR FILL OUR STOMACHS, WE WILL PREFER TO SAVE OUR FACES AND LET OUR STOMACHS STARVE.

- I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONVEY OUR GREETINGS TO THE POPE

AND TELL HIM THAT WE SHARE COMMON INTERESTS AND BOTH ADHERE TO THE SCHOOL OF MONOTHEISM. WE ASK YOU TO STRETCH YOUR HELPFUL HANDS TO THIS NATION AND EXPECT YOU TO GIVE A PATERNAL WARNING TO THE SUPERPOWERS AND DEMAND THE REASONS FOR THEIR WRONGFUL ACTIONS. END TEXT.  
SPIERS

END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED